

And so, Mr. Chairman, what we want this body and our colleagues to recognize is that HIV and AIDS is a pandemic for people of color, around the world, including here in the United States. Achieving adequate prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS in Africa and other parts of the world, is not that much different from combating it here. The social, economic, and health care infrastructure deficiencies are pretty much the same. And that is a real shame.

So, I am asking this body, to support Congresswoman LEE's efforts, to support the CBC initiative and to fully fund it this year and for several years to come as needed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, it was my intention to vote "yea" on rollcall vote No. 324, the H. Amdt. 905 to HR 4690, offered by Representative John Hostetler, but was recorded as voting "nay." The amendment was designed to add a new section, which provides that no funds in the bill may be used to enforce, implement, or administer the provisions of the settlement document dated March 17, 2000, between Smith and Wesson and the Department of the Treasury.

The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution clearly defines the right of Americans to possess firearms. The Second Amendment reads: "A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." I firmly believe this provision prohibits the federal government from denying citizens this right.

The agreement reached by the Administration and Smith & Wesson should not be used to coerce other manufacturers into abiding by an agreement of which they are not a party. On June 21, 2000, I voted to limit the repercussions of this Smith & Wesson agreement by supporting two of Representative Hostetler's amendments to the VA-HLD Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year (FY) 2001. It is my intention to vote in favor of similar amendments to future FY 2001 Appropriations bills.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RAIL RETIREMENT REFORM

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I am very pleased to introduce today H.R. 4844, the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2000, on behalf of myself, the Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Mr. OBERSTAR; the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, Mr. ARCHER; the Ranking Member of the Committee on Ways and Means, Mr. RANGEL; the Chairman of the Ground Transportation Subcommittee, Mr. PETRI; the Ranking Member of the Ground

Transportation Subcommittee, Mr. RAHALL; the Chairman of the Social Security Subcommittee, Mr. SHAW; and the Ranking Member of the Social Security Subcommittee, Mr. MATSUI.

This is a good bill which deserves the support of the House. The following is a joint statement on behalf of the eight original sponsors.

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE EIGHT ORIGINAL SPONSORS OF THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT AND SURVIVORS' IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

We are pleased to join together to introduce the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2000. This legislation will make important improvements in the railroad retirement program.

The introduction of this legislation by the bipartisan leadership of the two House committees with jurisdiction over this program represents a significant step toward enactment. We are pleased that Congress continues to have the close working relationship with railroad management and labor groups that has allowed us to come together on this bill today.

This reform legislation makes several improvements in the current benefit structure, especially for widows and widowers. In addition, the legislation modernizes the system's investment practices and strengthens the financing of the program.

This legislation is the product of several years of complex negotiations between rail management and rail labor. These negotiations were also given impetus by the September 1998 hearing held by the Subcommittee on Ground Transportation on benefit reform legislation authored by our colleague JACK QUINN. Although not all representatives of rail labor could support the final compromise signed in January of this year, a significant majority have endorsed the agreement, as have the groups representing rail retirees. We hope that as this bill moves through the legislative process, the full value of the benefits it brings to the system will be carefully assessed, and that it will ultimately receive the support of all groups.

The Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2000 is the end product of a bipartisan collaborative process. It is a bill that each of us supports and is committed to bring to enactment during the remaining days of the 106th Congress. We are pleased to introduce it today.

RECOGNIZING STEPHEN WEISS, JR.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stephen Weiss, Jr., a man who has been very instrumental in assisting hundreds of Brooklyn residents in the transition from apartment renters to first time homeowners.

Mr. Weiss, a graduate of Yale University, is an executive with Flintlock Construction Services, LLC, as well as with several other property development companies. Mr. Weiss is also actively involved in the operations of a property management company. Mr. Weiss joined these various firms in 1980, with the goal of using his positions with them to develop and construct primarily affordable housing, both for rental and for sale. Mr. Weiss also used these enterprises to develop much-

needed medical centers, to further benefit the community.

With his partner, DeCosta Headley, Mr. Weiss has developed and built hundreds of affordable apartments in East New York, Brownsville and Bedford Stuyvesant. Many of these homes, built to house working people, were rebuilt out of abandoned shells that used to blight these neighborhoods.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the lifelong efforts of Stephen Weiss, Jr., and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER DOUG FEARS, USCG

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant Commander Doug Fears, who recently left his position as the United States Coast Guard's (USCG) House liaison officer to attend the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

Lieutenant Commander Doug Fears grew up on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. He enlisted in the USCG in 1982 and served on the Cutter *Taney* (WHEC 37) home ported in Portsmouth, Virginia, and in the precommissioning detail for the Cutter *Tampa* (WMEC 902) in Norfolk, Virginia. He attended the USCG's Electronics Technician "A" school on Governor's Island, New York, and the Navy's Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training (BOOST) Program in San Diego, California, before accepting an appointment to the USCG Academy in 1985.

While at the academy, Lieutenant Commander Fears was active in a number of programs and served as the regimental commander of the Corps of Cadets. He graduated from the academy in May 1989 and subsequently served as Operations Officer and Navigator on the Cutter *Basswood* (WLB 388) in Guam, Marianas Islands.

He was then selected for the USCG/Navy officer exchange program in 1991. He served on the Aegis cruiser, U.S.S. *Vincennes* (CG49), as the Aegis Fire Control Officer. He subsequently served on the Throat Upgrade cruiser U.S.S. *Leahy* (CG 16) as the Combat Information Center Officer. Both ships were home ported in San Diego, California. During his tours, he deployed in support of Operations Desert Storm/Southern Watch in the Northern Arabian (Persian) Gulf, Restore Hope in the Indian Ocean off Somalia, Blue Line in the Eastern Pacific off South America and various bi-lateral exercises in the Sea of Japan and South China Sea.

In July 1993, Lieutenant Commander Fears reported to Seattle, Washington, as a search and rescue controller and command duty officer in the Thirteenth District Command Center. From 1994 to 1996, he served as aide and executive assistant to the Thirteenth District Commander, Rear Admiral John Lockwood.

In June 1996, Lieutenant Commander Fears assumed command of the Cutter *Sitkinak* (WP 1329), home ported in Key West, Florida. During his tour, he was involved in numerous counter-narcotics, alien migrant interdiction and search and rescue operations, including

Operations Able Response and Frontier Shield. He is a designated Coast Guard Cutterman and Navy Surface Warfare Officer, a licensed Master (100 gross tons) and has been awarded over two dozen personal unit, campaign and service awards. He is the 1997 national recipient of the U.S. Navy League's Captain David H. Jarvis Award for inspirational leadership.

From June 1998 to June 2000, Lieutenant Commander Fears was assigned to the United States House of Representatives as the assistant USCG liaison. In this capacity, he unselfishly served me, other members and their staffs in fulfilling requests and providing vital information pertinent to the USCG. My staff worked with Lieutenant Commander Fears closely over the past two years, and I know for a fact they could not have done their job properly without the able-bodied assistance of this fine officer. When a problem or issue pertinent to the USCG surfaced in my office, Lieutenant Commander Fears was the first one my staff or I called and, like clockwork, he promptly and thoroughly addressed the matter at hand.

In August 2000, he reports to the Naval War College, College of Command and Staff, in Newport, Rhode Island, where I know he will find great success. Lieutenant Commander Fears' future is bright, Mr. Speaker, and I wish him and his wife, Kate, the best as they forge ahead.

HONORING RICHMOND COUNTY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL BETA CLUB QUIZ BOWL TEAM

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of the Richmond County Senior High School Beta Club Quiz Bowl Team. Competing in the 20th Annual National Beta Club Convention in mid-June, team captain Joey Moree, John Bream, Allen Hodges, William Morgan, and alternate Mary Catherine Knight placed second in the nation and nearly came home to North Carolina with the National Championship. The Richmond Senior High team was one of 18 teams from southeastern and midwestern states. Some 2,500 Betas participated in the 3 day tournament in Arlington, Texas.

Having placed second in the North Carolina State Beta Quiz Bowl with the help of team member Montgomery Morris, the quiz bowl team earned the right to attend the national convention. The other five team members traveled to Arlington accompanied by advisors Judy Harrelson and Robert Graves. The Richmond team cruised through the first three rounds of the tournament. In the first round, Richmond Senior High defeated Martin County, Florida 185 to 95. The students breezed to a 250 to 140 victory over Koshkonong, Missouri in the second round. However, the semifinals proved to be more challenging. After trailing Pendleton Heights, Indiana 80 to 75 at halftime, the team roared to life and dominated the second half, winning with a resounding 265 to 105 tally. Drawing a crowd of over 2,000 Betas, the final round was a close contest throughout the match. Battling Southside, South Carolina, the finals came down to

the very last question, with Southside pulling ahead of Richmond Senior High with a single bonus to win the championship 155 to 150.

Mr. Speaker, the accomplishments of the Richmond Senior High School Beta Club Quiz Bowl Team deserve recognition. The hard work and dedication of Mr. Moree, Mr. Bream, Mr. Hodges, Mr. Morgan, Ms. Knight, and Mr. Morris have made their peers, teachers and parents proud. These six students have set an example for others to follow by challenging their minds outside the classroom. Their hard work has been duly rewarded with their strong second place performances in both the state and national competitions. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the efforts and achievements of the Richmond Senior High School Beta Quiz Bowl Team.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES-CUBA TRADE ACT OF 2000

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the "United States-Cuba Trade Act of 2000," to supplement legislation I introduced last year, H.R. 229, the "Free Trade with Cuba Act." The United States-Cuba Trade Act of 2000 will make the necessary changes to the U.S. Tariff Schedule and ensure that Cuba is not subjected to Title IV of the Trade Act of 1974, the so-called "Jackson-Vanik" amendment. (It is unclear whether the "Jackson-Vanik" amendment applies to Cuba, but the proposed legislation will eliminate any ambiguity in the law.) The legislation also calls on the President to take any appropriate actions in the World Trade Organization to restore full trading relations with Cuba, once the legislation is passed.

H.R. 229 repeals the legislative authority of the trade embargo against Cuba. The bill I am introducing today will, when applied in conjunction with H.R. 229, fully normalize trade relations with Cuba.

It makes no sense for the U.S. to trade with communist China, communist Vietnam, and other communist and formerly communist countries while continuing a 40-year old failed effort to promote reform in Cuba by isolating her people.

The 40 year old embargo has not achieved the intended result—isolation has not promoted political and economic reforms. In fact, here we are, 40 years later, and Fidel Castro is still in power, having outlasted almost 10 U.S. Presidents.

Many of the proponents of the China PNTR bill spoke eloquently about the benefits of trade with Communist countries, including the political message that it sends to the people and leadership of those countries about the benefits of freedom and the strengths of America's economy and society. However, some of these same proponents now balk when asked to apply these same principles to Cuba. It is hard for me to understand why in the view of some, these principles apply with such force to China, but not to Cuba. American businesses, workers and products are our best ambassadors—whether we are talking about China or Cuba.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church is Madison, Illinois.

Long before the year 1900, the seeds of the Orthodox faith were firmly planted in the City of Madison, Illinois by Carpatho-Russian and Galician immigrants. The first missionary priest, Fr. Stepanov, was sent to Madison in 1899. He heard his first confessions at the home of the Sawchucks at 1017 Madison Avenue. In 1902, permission was granted by the Archbishop of the Russian Orthodox Church in America to start the process of collecting funds to construct an Orthodox Church on Ewing Avenue in Madison. First a wooden structure was constructed, remaining on this site until 1964 when a new church building was built.

This first church building was blessed by Fr. John Kochuroff, pastor of the Chicago Parish and builder of the present cathedral in Chicago, Illinois. Fr. Kochuroff had later returned to his homeland and in the beginning of the Russian Revolution was martyred in that conflict.

The parish has its own cemetery, eleven acres in size, located at Highway 157 and Interstate 270 and is commonly known as Sunset Hill. The cemetery was purchased in 1924 and dedicated on Memorial Day, 1925. The parish was ministered by missionary priests in its early years, and beginning in 1905, permanent priests were assigned. The church choir was organized in 1920 and continues to this day. In 1962, additional property was acquired and a new building program was commenced. In 1964, ground was broken to begin construction. In 1965, the new church was consecrated and the church was dedicated.

In 1972, the Church held a "mortgage burning ceremony" and a ground breaking was held for a new rectory building. In 1973, the new rectory was completed and in 1988 the Rectory Mortgage was also retired and a Mortgage burning luncheon was held in October of that year. The church and rectory continue today to fulfill the spiritual lives of orthodox Christians of Russian, Greek, Serbian and other eastern European heritage.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the communities and parishioners on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church.

IN MEMORY OF MY PERSONAL FRIEND—PATRICIA KRONGARD

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, It is with profound sadness that I now rise to honor the life